

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Min-Yuan CHOU and Charng-Yih LEU)
Serial No. To be assigned) Group Art Unit: To be assigned
Filing Date: To be filed herewith) Examiner: To be assigned
For: NOVEL HUMAN $\alpha 1$ CHAIN) Customer No.
COLLAGEN) *26694*
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE
Atty. Docket No. 32350-176844)
November 30, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants request the entry of the following amendment prior to the calculation of claim fees and the examination of the above-identified application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 7 and 18 as follows:

7. (Amended) The human $\alpha 1$ chain collagen protein as claimed in claim 6, wherein the protein is encoded by an isolated nucleic acid and the degenerate sequence thereof, said isolated nucleic acid and the degenerate sequence thereof comprise the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 5.

18. (Amended) A kit for detecting the disease related to the mutation of SEQ ID NO. 5 in a mammal or human comprising a probe, which comprises the nucleic acid of claim 1.

Please add claim 21 as follows:

21. (New) A kit for detecting the disease related to the mutation of SEQ ID NO. 5 in a mammal or human comprising a probe, which comprises the nucleic acid of claim 17.


REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the case. Applicants have amended claims 7 and 18 to eliminate multiple claim dependency and added claim 21 to preserve the subject matter eliminated in the original claim 18. The claims are supported by the original claims 7 and 18. No new matter has been introduced.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by this amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**"

Fees for the claims are submitted together with the application fee under a separate cover sheet. Should any other fee be required, please charge the same to deposit account number 22-0261 and notify the applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: November 30, 2001

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doc# 335274

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 21 has been added.

Claims 7 and 18 have been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) The human $\alpha 1$ chain collagen protein as claimed in claim 6, wherein the protein is encoded by an isolated nucleic acid and the degenerate sequence thereof, said isolated nucleic acid and the degenerate sequence thereof comprise the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 5 ~~the nucleic acid of claim 1.~~

18. (Amended) A kit for detecting the disease related to the mutation of SEQ ID NO. 5 in a mammal or human comprising a probe, which comprises the nucleic acid of claim 1 ~~or claim 17.~~